THEFT OF A MULE PROVOKED THE WAR

Funny Beginning of Central American Fuss.

NATIONS BECAME VERY MULISH.

Honduras and Nicaragua Having Become Imbued With the Distinguishing Trait of the Stolen Animal, Concluded to Fight It Out—A Question of Citizenship.

Washington (Special).—One mule —a mule belonging to Senor Jenero Salgado—was the chief object in dispute between Nicaragua and Honduras when they began the quarrel which finally ended in the war that is threatening the peace of all Central America, according to official communications exchanged by the ministers of foreign affairs of the two republics, copies of which have been received in Washington.

The controversy began when Senor Augusto C. Coello, the Honduran minister of foreign affairs, wrote a note to Senor Don Gregorio Nunez, the Nicaraguan minister for foreign affairs, on January 26, protesting against the theft of a mule from Ocotal, Nicaragua by 35 Nicaraguan cavalrymen who were charged with entering Honduran territory.

In reply, Senor Gamez said the Nicaraguans did not quite catch Honduras, although they passed close to the little town of Los Manos, in that republic. The taking of the mule was not denied, but Senor Gamez insisted in his letter that Salgado was not a Honduran citizen, that the Nicaraguan who had to leave that country because of the part he played in a revolution two years before. Consequently Nicaragua maintained that Honduras had no right to fly to the defense of Salgado's mule.

This note brought a spirited reply from Honduras, the minister for foreign affairs, announcing that Senor Salgado, the Nicaraguan refugee, was living in Tegucigalpa, rapidly engaged in trade there, while a man by the same name, a republican and respected farmer, a Honduran of unquestioned citizenship, lived at Los Manos and owned the much-mooted mule.

Nicaragua replied that it was true that Col. Juan I. Rocha, who commanded a part of the cavalrymen, took a mule near Los Manos, but reiterated that the animal was not taken in Honduran territory. Hot dispatches grew longer as the controversy waxed warmer, and many nations arose. Then, the arbitration tribunal was opened and finally the break came when President Zelaya, of Nicaragua, withdrew his member of the board of arbitration and war between Honduras and Nicaragua actually began.

Revolution In Venezuela.

Willemstad, Curacao (by Cable).—A dispatch received here from Caracuta, Columbia, announces that a powerful revolution has started in the State of Tachira, Venezuela, with Gen. Juan Pablo Penaloza as its leader.

IMPRISONED ON ROCK.

Harrowing Experience Of A New Yorker On Island Cliff.

Los Angeles, Cal. (Special).—Imprisoned for two days and two nights on a narrow ledge of crumbling rock on Catalina Island and unable to communicate his danger by hailing parties almost within sound of his voice, J. L. Sand, a New Yorker, Arkaley-on-the-Hudson, N. Y., was rescued by fishermen.

Descending a steep cliff to bathe at the mouth of an unfrequented canyon, Sand found himself unable to retrace his steps because of the crumbling character of the rocky cliff.

During the daylight, boating parties were almost constantly in sight, but he professed not to have observed and he remained unrescued. He almost collapsed after his rescue.

SHOT HIS FRIEND.

Double Tragedy Results From Slight Provocation.

Birmingham, Ala. (Special).—As the result of a shooting affray at Wylam, near this city, J. B. Brown is dying and W. M. Stinson, jr., is critically wounded. Brown shot Stinson, but it is not known whether Brown's wounds were inflicted by himself or by Stinson.

Stinson and B. Brown, of Greensboro, Ala., who had been at Brown's home, are said to have become offended at a request of Mrs. Brown, and went away. Later they decided to return and apologize. Britton started to leave when he heard shots in the kitchen. He then had evidently shot Stinson and then tried to kill himself.

Stinson and Brown had been friends for years.

Another Naval Disaster.

Paris (By Cable).—The French torpedo-boat No. 263 and the destroyer Epe, while maneuvering without lights near Ajaccio, ran into each other.

Two men were killed and one was fatally injured. The torpedo boat was beached. The Epe was able to re-enter the harbor.

Glass Plant Burned.

New Martinsville, W. Va. (Special).—The plant of the New Martinsville Glass Company and several adjoining buildings were destroyed by fire, the loss being place at $125,000. On account of the flood the firemen were handicapped and for several hours a large section of the city was threatened. Dynamite was used to prevent the blaze from communicating to the adjacent property. The cause of the fire is unknown, but it is believed unchecked line in the glass works absorbed water and developed heat.

Business Section Is Ruins.

Birmingham, Ala. (Special).—The entire business section of Smithfield, a part of Blocton, Ala., was destroyed by fire tonight, entailing a loss estimated at $100,000. In addition to the business houses burned, 12 residences were consumed. The fire started about 7:30 o'clock in a negro restaurant and spread rapidly. Included in the list of burned buildings were the city dispensary, a number of general merchandise stores, two meat markets and two restaurants.

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Domestic.

The traffic managers of Western lines met in Chicago and considered the safety question of lengthening the time of express trains, so as to decrease the number of accidents.

After three days of argument, the government won its fight over the routing of oil in its suit against the Standard Oil on charges of relating in the State of Ohio.

The Oliver Iron and Steel Works and 25 business houses and dwellings were destroyed by fire in Pittsburg. No clue has been found to the $172,000 missing from the Chicago Subtreasury.

Floods have caused considerable damage in Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Eastern Ohio. The lower portions of Pittsburg and Allegheny are flooded. Twenty or more fatalities have resulted. Sixty dwellings in Mcjorville, W. Va., were swept away.

The jury which heard the charges of rebating between the Atchison, Tarkawanna and Western Railroad and the Sugar Trust were unable to agree and were discharged.

Edward Johnson, a lifesaver, was drowned in rescuing part of the crew of the British frame schooner Gowanburn, ashore off Long Island.

John Alexander Dowie, in a white robe and bearing in his grave in a white hearse drawn by white horses.

James March, aged 100 years, the oldest citizen of Lebanon, Pa., is dead.

Rachel Fisher, 28 years of age, was seriously injured in the crowd of people who thronged around the bier of John Alexander Dowie, at Zion City, in the hope of being cured of their ailments by touching the hem of Dowie's shroud.

Chief Engineer Engineer W. W. Crosby, of Maryland, addressed the American Railroadmen's Convention in session in Pittsburg on the subject, "Hitting the Way in Maryland."

H. G. McDowell, president of the Farmers' Bank, of Canton, O., shot himself in the head at his home and is dying instantly. He left no note of explanation of his suicide.

William J. Bryan says the railroads prefer regulation by Congress to control by the state, as Congress is farther from the people than the legislatures.

Miss Gertrude Harnish, aged 20, a stenographer, committed suicide by jumping from the thirteenth story of the Odeon building in Cincinnati.

Speaker Cannon, in an address to the Porto Ricans at San Juan, declared it was the universal desire of the people of the United States that the Porto Ricans should demonstrate their capacity for self-government.

Mrs. Eddy's second counsel has been adopted son joined in the proceedings to have her declared incompetent to manage her affairs.

Seven men dead into the store of Hargis Brothers, in which Jim Jett, a brother of Curtis Jett, the footlist was sleeping.

Frank Rockfeller, brother of John D. Rockfeller, has sued to recover $265,000 invested in a land mine.

An investigation was begun into the charges of graft in the building of the Capitol in Harrisburg, Pa.

Admiral Beresford says the people, and not potentates or parliament, declare war nowadays.

Vice President Fairbanks states the monetary will not restrain dishonest combinations of capital.

Two Greeks were drowned by the capsizing of a boat in the Monongahela River.

A move is on foot in New York to abolish the death penalty.

Foreign.

The ceiling of the old hall in the Tanrida Palace, St. Petersburg, in which the lower house of parliament meets, collapsed. While there were rumors of a plot, it appears to have been purely an accident.

Captain Rodin, of the Austrian-Hungarian army, declares that Japan is feverishly rushing work on her military and naval establishments.

The body of M. Petkoff, the premier of Servia, who was assassinated in Sofia, Bulgaria, March 11, was found in the public cemetery.

The British armored cruiser Duke of Edinburgh grounded in the harbor of Dover, but was gotten off without damage.

The Dutch troops captured an important rebel stronghold on the island of Celebes, Dutch East Indies.

Edouard Toudouze, famous as a painter of mythological subjects and landscapes, died in Paris.

The Shah of Turkey received the American ambassador, Mr. Leishman, in private audience.

The semiofficial Temps newspaper of Paris says that if the question of limitation of armaments is discussed at the coming peace conference international relations will become worse than before.

In a conflict between police and strikers in Belgrade, Servia, five persons were killed and 20 wounded.

Lord Curzon, ex-viceroy of India, was elected chancellor of Oxford University, defeating Lord Rosebery.

The Grand Duke Michael, brother of the Czar, has given $100,000 for the relief of famine sufferers.

The Honduran revolutionists defeated President Emilio's forces, according to Nicaraguan reports.

Robbers bound and decapitated the proprietor, five laborers and a woman of a Russian estate.

Rev. N. Castle, an early missionary in the Hawaiian Island, is dead at the age of 90.

The inventory of the late Shah's jewels puts their value at $50,000,000.

In a disastrous train wreck Dr. Adam Jamieson, ex-minister of public lands, and 11 others, all of them prominent South Africans, were killed and 11 others severely injured by the Delagoa Line.

Two persons daily are said to have occurred in Russia as the result of drunkenness under martial.

Lord Beauchamp Norvill was arrested in London on the charge of secreting diamonds in a trick.

A decisive engagement between the Honduran and Nicaraguan forces is said to be imminent.

Fifteen hundred longshoremen have taken the places of the strikers at Hamburg.

Two thousand peasants were made homeless by a fire at Boraano, Italy.

The miners of the Charleroi (Belgium) district in a referendum vote decided to adopt the eigh-hour working day.

The Woman's Enfranchisement Bill was practically killed in the British House of Commons for the present session. The gallery of the House was crowded with women. A petition signed by 21,000 women protesting against suffrage to their sex was presented.

THEY WILL NOT GO TO THE WHITE HOUSE

The Railroad Presidents Have So Decided.

MANAGERS NOT IN PERFECT ACCORD.

McCrea, Mellen, Hughitt and Newman, It Is Said, Do Not Feel They Could Assume the Position of a Self-constituted Commission to Present the Views of Hundreds of Railroad Companies.

RAILROADS AND MARKET.

While hundreds of brokers were cheering at the close of the bulls on the New York Exchange over the end of the panic, the four railroad presidents whom Mr. Morgan had asked President Roosevelt to meet were in conference in New York.

They finally decided not to go to Washington, for the reason that all the railroad managers in the country are not in perfect accord and they could not secure a consensus of opinion on what to present to the President.

The result of the rally in the market shows that the bulling railroad stocks which so sharply declined Wednesday and Thursday made a net gain of $6.30 a share, almost half the total loss of the two preceding days.

Thomas F. Ryan helped to save the situation. He is said to have bought $4,000,000 worth of securities, but Senor Don Gregorio.

The endurance displayed by the New York brokerage house during the panic is said to have been unprecedented.

E. H. Harriman denied rumors that control of Union Pacific had been taken from him during the visit here.

New York (Special).—Messrs. McCrea, Mellen, Hughitt and Newman, the four railroad presidents for whose visit to the White House J. Pierpont Morgan arranged before his departure for Europe, held a conference at the Grand Central Station in this city. The whole situation was canvassed with great care, and it was finally decided not to go to Washington.

It is understood that the reason for this conclusion was that the four gentlemen involved did not feel that they had any proper mandate from the railroad corporations to represent them. They felt that they could not assume the position of a self-constituted commission to formulate or present the views of the hundreds of railroad companies, which is torn are owned by millions of shareholders. They recognized that the railroad managers of the United States are not themselves in perfect accord, and that until some method could be adopted for securing a consensus of opinion a visit to the President would be idle. At the conclusion of the conference the various presidents left for their homes.

From another source it was learned that the presidents were utterly unable to agree on a statement as to what position should be taken. It was held by at least one of them that as no invitation to the White House had been given to them by President Roosevelt and that he had not mentioned to them why he would see them if they came, they would be put in the position of supplicants asking the President to modify the attitude of the federal government toward the railroads. To do this, on the other hand, if they went to Washington at the invitation of the President they would be put in the position of being asked to discuss the railroad situation without embarrassment.

Thomas F. Ryan, when asked his opinion about the meeting suggested by Mr. Morgan between the President and the heads of the great railroads of the country, said:

"I believe that if Mr. Morgan's visit to the President is followed up as it should be, by all of our great business interests, it will do much good.

"I also believe that the President's attitude toward corporations is much misunderstood by the people. President against the Western railroads that have announced a raise on coal.

Shipping interests interested in the Atlantic seaboard are to be relieved from discrimination complained of by Secretary Straus, of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

The apportionment of 600 additional postoffice clerks for the coming annum was announced at the postoffice department.

Secretary of the Treasury Cortelyou has instructed collectors of customs at places where it is thought desirable to deposit their receipts with national banks with a view of relieving the financial situation.

Senator Warner, chairman of the committee that is investigating the Brownsville affair, received a letter from Senator Culberson contradicting testimony given by Capt. Kilbourne, of the Texas Rangers.

Official denial was given to the report that the President had requested the governors of states in which railroad legislation is pending to come to Washington to confer with him.

Secretary Taft refused the application of the Chicago Sanitary Board for a permit to divert 10,000 cubic feet of Lake Michigan into the drainage canal through the Chicago River.

The constitutionality of the Employers' Liability Act has been sustained by Judge Speer, sitting in the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Arkansas.

The department received word that the gunboat Princeton left Acajutla, Salvador, March 25, for Nicaragua.

Rowland Osborne, post quartermaster sergeant, testified in the Brownsville investigation that when the white soldiers were threatened to make way for negro troops they left behind much ammunition, piling it loose in storehouses and barracks.

Secretary Taft's proposed visit to the Philippines in September to attend the opening of the first Philippine assembly has drawn the attention toward the new legislative body to be created for the islands.

The President gave his hearty indorsement to a federated movement looking to the revival of religious sentiment among the working classes of New York.

Former Senator Blackburn, who is to be a member of the Isthmus Canal Commission, will probably assume his new duties April 1 next, taking station on the Isthmus.

DISASTER IN FRENCH NAVY

One of France's Finest Battleships Blown Up.

Toulon (By Cable).—A terrible disaster occurred here. The powder magazines on board the French battleship Iena blew up at 1.35, and as a result Captain Lagarde, the commander of the battleship; Captain Vertier, chief of staff of the Mediterranean Squadron, and from 70 to 80 bluejackets are dead, while Rear Admiral Manceron and hundreds of other men are suffering from injuries, some of them horrible in their extent.

Naval circles are aghast and the public is stunned by the appalling catastrophe, coming so soon after the loss of the French submarine boat Lutin, in which 16 men met death.

The entire after part of the Iena was blown to pieces. The bodies of the victims were hurled through the air by a succession of explosions, and the panic-stricken workmen at the arsenal fled from the vicinity of the drydock for their lives. Scores of the men who were on board the Iena jumped either overboard or onto the stone quays, and sustained serious injuries.

Torpedo Starts It.

The primary cause of the accident was the explosion of a torpedo. What caused the explosion is not known, for the powder magazine of the Iena were set on fire, and their contents, in a few moments, were destroyed what was considered one of the finest vessels in the French Navy.

The Iena, after the completion of the final inspection of her hull and machinery, the latter having been completely overhauled preparatory to joining the squadron.

The crew was in its full strength, being composed of the regular admiral 24 others officers and 630 men. The magazines had been replenished recently, and the vessel was provided with smokeless and black powder, as well as a full supply of charges for torpedoes.

The crew had finished their midday meal only a short time before the explosion, and had dispersed to various parts of the vessel. Most of the men were engaged in work connected with the Easter celebration. Many of the warship, but quite a large party had been detailed to attend a lecture that was being given forward.

Panic Follows Explosion.

The explosion came without warning. The first shock was extremely violent and shook the vessel fore and aft. It was followed instantly by another shock. The crew were thrown in a condition of panic. They rushed wildly hither and thither about the deck. Those on shore who had been attending the lecture clambered over the bulwarks and jumped down, some of them into the dock and others to the stone quay. Many of the men who jumped sustained fatal injuries.

AT THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Some Interesting Happenings Briefly Told.

Coal operators and miners from Southern Indiana and Illinois protested before the Interstate Commerce Commission against the rates in rates declared by certain Western railroads.

The President appointed Seth Low, of New York, and Thomas G. Bush, of Alabama, members of the administrative Board for the Promotion of Industrial Peace, thus completing the board.

A rumor has been circulated to the effect that Secretary Metcalf, of the Government Printing Office may declare a strike because of the action in supplanting of skilled workmen with apprentices.

Secretary Garfield issued an order intended to expedite to the utmost the work of surveying the Indian Territorymen whose applications have already been filed in the General Land Office.

John Mitchell, president of the Mineworkers' Union, and a dozen coal operators complained to the President against the Western railroads that have announced a raise on coal.

Shipping commissioners appointed at the Atlantic seaboard are to be examined into their qualifications, under by Secretary Straus, of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

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JAPANESE LABORERS ARE EXCLUDED

Executive Order Issued By The President.

THE BARGAIN IS CARRIED OUT.

Settlement of the Eastern Question in California Accomplished — Japanese Who Emigrate to Canada, Mexico, Cuba and Hawaii Will Not Be Allowed to Come In.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—President Roosevelt issued an executive order directing that Japanese or Korean laborers, skilled and unskilled, who have received passports to go to Mexico, Canada or Hawaii and to come therefrom, be refused to enter the continental territory of the United States. This is practically the final chapter, except so far as the question may be taken up in treaty negotiations with Japan, in the issue growing out of the differences with that country over the action of the San Francisco authorities in prohibiting Japanese school children attending the schools set aside for the whites.

Authority to refuse permission to the classes of persons cited by the President to enter the continental territory of the United States is contained in the immigration Bill, approved February 20. It was incorporated in that measure at the request of the President and in settlement of a promise he made to Mayor Schmitz and the school board of San Francisco during the negotiations at the White House, if the Mayor and Board would rescind their action on the school question.

The promise of the President and that of Mayor Schmitz and the Board associates brought to a close the controversy over the school question, which has threatened to involve the authorities considerable concern. The President's action is in full in as follows:

"Whereas, By the act entitled 'An Act to Regulate the Immigration of Aliens Into the United States,' approved February 20, 1907, whenever the President is satisfied that passports issued by any foreign government to its citizens to go to any country other than the United States or to any insular possession of the United States or to the Canal Zone are being used for the purpose or enabling the holders to come to the continental territory of the United States to the detriment of labor conditions therein, it shall be the duty of the President to refuse to permit such citizens of such country to use such passports to enter the continental territory of the United States and to use such force as may be necessary to prevent such persons from the Canal Zone.

"And, whereas, Upon sufficient evidence produced before the Department of Commerce and Labor it has been made to appear to my satisfaction by the government of Japan to citizens of that country or Korea, and who are laborers skilled or unskilled, to go to Mexico, Canada or Hawaii, are being used for the purpose of enabling the holders thereof to come to the continental territory of the United States to the detriment of labor conditions therein:

"I hereby order that such citizens of Japan or Korea, to wit: Japanese or Korean laborers, skilled and unskilled, who have received passports to go to Mexico, Canada or Hawaii, and to come therefrom, be refused to enter the continental territory of the United States. This is practically the final chapter, except so far as the question may be taken up in treaty negotiations with Japan, in the issue growing out of the differences with that country over the action of the San Francisco authorities in prohibiting Japanese school children attending the schools set aside for the whites.

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Easy On Captain Stogsdall.

Omaha, Neb. (Special).—Gen. A. W. Greely approved the findings of the court martial which last week retired Capt. R. R. Stogsdall, U. S. A., L. Clark, of the Thirteenth, inspector-general Stogsdall, who pleaded guilty to drunkenness, was promoted. Lieutenant Blackall, whose offense was drunkenness on the streets of the day, is sentenced to be confined to the limits of his post for three months and fined $100. Lieutenant Green's court on its sentiency toward Captain Stogsdall.

IN THE FINANCIAL WORLD.

London sold 45,000 shares of American stocks. It was said that the buying was nothing was engaged by brokers.

Nobody knew what he thought was the matter with Reading. Whatever was behind "Reading is virtually cornered."

E. Redmond & Co.'s security list are those of well-managed banks which yield the investor 6 per cent. or better.

American Tobacco's net earnings in 1906 were $26,406,000, a gain of $2,000,000. The company now has a surplus of $30,550,000.

President Fred T. Chandler, of the Phelps-Dodge Mining Company, in "Many big men have been hurt in the panic because they have lost sight of them who, a short while ago, were their friends. Fortunately, I have even imagined they had a dozen or more willing to crawl on their knees and lick my boots. A more creepy sound I never wish to hear. But we were all tired out, and slept at last even in spite of the mosquitoes.

Morning dawned dull but fine.

"Jack Assing had come out of it "trying back," but it was at last decided to keep on. We felt sure that we were now a long way past the Clay Springs Run and hoped to reach the St. John's before night.

Vain hope! After hours of struggling with ever-increasing weeds we ran into a bank of slime which barred farther progress. There was no need to inform one another what had happened. Somehow we had left the main stream, and, for how long none of us knew, had been working down

DOINGS OF THE OLD DOM

The Latest Virginia News Told In Short Order.

The Richmond Board of Trade passed a resolutions appropriating $99 for a monument to the memory of Edgar Allen Poe, to be erected in that city, with the understanding that the monument shall be placed in the Jamestown Exposition grounds.

At a meeting of citizens of Clark County, the county high school was effected. George Colson was chairman of the meeting and M. L. P. Reed secretary. The new institution will have a corps of $15,000 and surplus of $1,000 for the purchase of a site, to which application has been made. The increasing interests of Berryville and vicinity has made a bank a necessity.

Reporting that he had eloped with a married man, pretty Lucile Weekley, a daughter of Capt. Charles Weekley, of Winchester, Miss Weekley eloped two weeks ago with Thomas Luttrell, of Cedar Grove, Orange County, who owns a farm and four small children. Miss Weekley's parents had objected to the young dream was soon over and she was heartily glad to be rid of Luttrell. Luttrell was married to Miss Gandaniel.

On Monday last Mrs. Luttrell, during the absence of her husband and personal effects, and left for Winchester. The copper mine at Dark Corner, in Page and Madison Counties, is reporting a fine find.

The Southern and Western Railway Company, of Spartanburg, S. C., has purchased 1,000 coal cars, and a second order will be placed with the Ralston Steel Car Company. This is in addition to the 1,500 coal cars and 25 locomotives for 1,500 coal cars and 25 locomotives.

E. R. Woodin, who recently severed with the Farmers' Bank as master of the National Soldiers' Home, has tendered his resignation, to take effect on March 31. Mr. Woodin, who is a son of late Col. T. P. Woodin, of Richmond, will continue to reside near Burke.

Lonnie Williams, about 14 years old, was placed in jail, charged with stealing a saw, carriage from C. H. Grimm, Courtland. Williams lired the stable to Smithfield, where he offered for sale for $10. Smith that the team was stolen, and offered $50, which Williams refused to accept.

An "old residents' society" organized in Newport News. To a member a citizen must have lived in the city for 20 years, and a $25,000 or more persons in the city are not more than 50 will be eligible to membership in the organization.

The 4-year-old daughter of Hoffo, a farmer of Vernia Heights, Fredericksburg, was burned to death in her father's barn. The little girl was playing in the barn, which was filled with corn and hay, and when the building became ignited she thought, no doubt, that she was in the Wekiva Channel, with the water all around her, and so could be seen anywhere.

Here we saw for the first time what was later to prove our worst enemy, that curious weed the water-lettuce. The top of the water-lettuce bears an exact resemblance to its garden namesake, but below is a huge mass of roots. It floats on the water, and gliding gently down the sluggist current until it meets some obstruction, gathers in huge rafts, which finally block the whole stream from bank to bank. These rafts rot, and upon them grow forests of other weeds, until at last the river is entirely hidden.

It was growing late. There was now no way hope of reaching the Clay Springs Settlement that night. We realized that we should have to camp.

But where? That was the question, for there was no longer any solid land to camp on. On either side lay miles of impenetrable vegetation, and the river was sickening, and the only thing to build a raft of logs and try to float down. It was more than tedious work, for we were now again among cypresses, and their branches were high out of reach, so that we had to depend on floating stuff. But we persevered, slowly, and at last got a tiny fire to burn. It was hardly big enough, with a sudden rush and hiss, down splashed a heavy shower, wetting us to the skin and extinguishing the feeble blaze. Then upon we crawled under the sail and ate dry bread and cold fried meat.

Towards 4 o'clock it began to rain—a thick, fine drizzle. The sky grew rapidly dark, and we could not see more than a few yards in any direction. We had to sheer off rapidly and tie up at some distance away.

We had no means of cooking in the boat, and made a miserable meal on bread and cheese. Meantime the fire had got a good hold on the cypress, and we were treated to a magnificent display, and our bivouac was as light as day.

Suddenly the boat emerged from the endless arches of cypress, and the change was taken by a forest of tall cabbage palmettoes. The undergrowth changed, and was as thick as ever, but not so lofty. Wild grape-vines matted it, and a flock of wild turkey rose from the ground and winged chattering across the water.

Then we came to a bend, and the river widened out, certainly, and of the blackest character, but still firm enough to bear our weight. We could have pulled ashore, but the brush was like a wall, and it was a dead to drop a foothold before we could land. Franks was the first to leave the boat. An odd, whirring noise came from the thicket, and he sprang back hastily. Marshall snatched up his gun, but the heavy report rolled down the silent river a five-foot diamond back rattlesnake with its death agony on the mud.

"I reckon that was close enough!" was all Myers said. We were too hungry and thirsty to mind even a little backwater! There was nothing for it but to go back.

It was nearly three before we were again on the main stream again. The current was so nearly imperceptible that it was most difficult to avoid the innumerable blind channels.

By this time we were all suffering from the effects of the putrid water, and Myers was really ill. Fortunately I happened to have a bottle of Jamaica ginger with me, which proved invaluable.

A third night approached and we had not the faintest idea where we were. Just before dark we ran into a tremendous bed of lettuce. Halfway through it the boat's bow struck something solid. It was a cypress log, lying just below the weed. The boat had to be lifted over it, and the work fell to Marshall and myself. I shall never forget how supremely uncomfortable I felt as I stepped over the side and clung with my bare toes to the rounded, slimy log. We had seen scores of moccasins (poisonous water-vipers) in the weed beds. There was no time to take chances of treading on one of these sluggish but deadly reptiles.

Or suppose I slipped! There was twelve feet of oily water below the log, and, once under the weed, the strongest swimmer in the world would be helpless.

It took all our strength to lift the boat and slide her over the obstruction, but it was passed at last, and as it grew pitch-dark we cleared the lettuce and floated into a wide lagoon of yellow buttercups and water-lilies, and here we and then a heavy fish would splash in the "pop!"-ing.

Every one was longing for a cup of tea, but we had no means of making it. We found a good cypress buttress and lit a fire. Alas for our hopes of hot supper! The wood was sodden, and there was only the buttress, which was hollow, like the trunk, and we had to kettle together fell hissing into the black water below. Worse still, the cypress buttress, with a sudden rush, began to sink. Franks and I managed to get to terra firma, but Myers and Marshall had to shove off rapidly and tie up at some distance away.

We had no means of cooking in the boat, and made a miserable meal on bread and cheese. Meantime the fire had got a good hold on the cypress, and we were treated to a magnificent display, and our bivouac was as light as day.

Suddenly the boat emerged from the endless arches of cypress, and the change was taken by a forest of tall cabbage palmettoes. The undergrowth changed, and was as thick as ever, but not so lofty. Wild grape-vines matted it, and a flock of wild turkey rose from the ground and winged chattering across the water.

Then we came to a bend, and the river widened out